

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-17 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6-9 AND 11-17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY MEYER ET AL. (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,826,715 B1)

The rejections of claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-17 are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Meyer et al. (hereinafter "Meyer") discloses a diagnostics program installed on a customer's computer. The diagnostics program captures the computer's hardware and operating system configuration when the program is installed, and also captures the hardware and operating system configuration upon request when the user needs customer service help, and compares the two by highlighting differences. (Abstract).

In contrast, the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14, for example, provides a remote maintenance apparatus used for maintenance of terminals connected to a network, by obtaining configuration information, of hardware and software of terminals, sent from said terminals.

Further, the present invention, as recited in independent claims 8 and 16, for example, provides a terminal sending said apparatus information and said configuration information of hardware and software, and said user information to said remote maintenance apparatus while maintaining correspondences of said apparatus information, said configuration information of hardware and software and said user information.

Therefore, according to embodiments of the present invention, the remote maintenance apparatus can manage configurations of a plurality of terminals, so that it becomes possible to send necessary resources to a plurality of terminals, and analysis of a failure can be performed efficiently since failure information of a plurality of terminals can be used for the analysis, for example.

On the other hand, Meyer merely discloses collecting configuration information in a computer and, thus, does not teach or even suggest the features of the present invention, as described above.

Furthermore, independent claims 2 and 15 recite identifying terminals to which resources are distributed on the basis of said resources and configuration information of hardware and software stored in said storing part, and generating a list describing correspondence between said resources and said terminals to which said resources are distributed.

Independent claims 11 and 17 recite obtaining resources distributed from said remote maintenance apparatus.

The Examiner does not mention these features, and it is submitted that Meyer fails to teach or even suggest identifying terminals to which resources are distributed, generating a list or distributing resources from the remote maintenance apparatus.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 2, 8, 11 and 14-17 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Dependent claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 inherit the patentability of their respective base claim and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 4, 5 AND 10 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER MEYER IN VIEW OF PENG (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,816,944)

Claims 4, 5 and 10 depend from independent claims 1, 2 and 8, respectively, which patentably distinguish over Meyer, as asserted above. It is further submitted that Peng fails to teach or even suggest the features of independent claims 1, 2 or 8. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 4, 5 and 10 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Serial No. 09/813,962

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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